

Amendments to the Specification

Amend page 2, paragraph [0003], as follows:

[0003] Postal authorities publish postage rate schedules based on a variety of parameters, such as the weight and/or dimensions of the mail piece, the origin and/or destination of the mail piece and the class of mail service being used. A mailing machine as described above typically stores a series of tables corresponding to the published rate schedules. In operation, a user weighs a mail piece and selects a class of service for the mail piece and then feeds the mail piece through the mailing machine. The mailing machine determines the proper postage for the mail piece based on the stored tables and the measured weight and chosen class of service and prints the proper postage either directly on the mail piece or on a tape to be applied to the mail piece. The user may also designate one or more special services to apply to each mail piece. These special services typically involve some special treatment that the mail piece is to receive, such as, for example, c.o.d. service, return receipt service or insurance, among others. Each designated special service requires an additional fee, which is included in the postage amount that is printed in a postage indicia for the mail piece.